

believed that self-loading wheel lifts have been designed with the ability to rapidly convert or transform the wheel lift device into an alternate towing mechanism, such as a tool bar or frame fork attachment.

Accordingly, it would be advantageous to provide a self-loading wheel lift that overcomes the current disadvantages of such wheel lifts, while providing new advantages.

DEFINITION OF CLAIM TERMS

The following terms are used in the claims of the patent as filed and are intended to have their broadest meaning consistent with the requirements of law. Where alternative meanings are possible, the broadest meaning is intended. All words used in the claims are intended to be used in the normal, customary usage of grammar and the English language.

"Rapidly" and "quickly" as applied to disassembly, each mean the ability to remove the (e.g.) wheel lift from the cross bar in the field, and to reassemble an alternate towing device in the field, within a few minutes.

"Self-loading wheel lift" refers to a wheel lift capable of engaging and lifting a towed vehicle without the necessity of manually placing wheel support members to engage the towed vehicle.

"Tool bar" means a round or square tube connected to the rear of a towing vehicle and able to receive various attachments to effectuate or facilitate towing a vehicle such as but not limited to hook ends, frame forks, slings, pintle hooks, fifth-wheel plates, king pins, etc.

"Wheel lift" means any device designed to lift and tow vehicles by attachment to and sole or substantial support by the wheels of the towed vehicle.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The objects mentioned above, as well as other objects, are solved by the present invention, which overcomes disadvantages of prior wheel lifts, while providing new advantages not believed associated with such devices, including those advantages listed above as well as other advantages as well.